



Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
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March 25, 2010

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), we applaud your efforts to advance science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for our children. The overall goal of the STEM Master Teacher Corps Act of 2011, to reward inspirational, high-quality teachers and encourage teacher improvement, reflects the objectives of AAAS's math and science education reform initiatives, DC ACTS (DC Advancing Competencies in Technology and Science) and DC FAME (DC Fellows for the Advancement of Mathematics Education).

A STEM Master Teacher Corps could serve as an impetus for teachers to strive to reach their potential, enhance student learning, and encourage students to follow their dreams into STEM fields. Improving STEM education is necessary to create a competitive and productive U.S. workforce that is ready for increasingly high-tech jobs and for spurring the nation's economy.

AAAS is the world's largest multi-disciplinary scientific society and the publisher of the prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Science*. Fostering science and technology education for everyone and enhancing the science and technology workforce are essential parts of our mission. We stand ready to work with you and the U.S. Congress in addressing this critical subject. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner